(b) if so, the action taken thereafter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Government of India is aware of the judgement dated 13.4.2006 delivered by the Supreme Court of India in the Writ Petition (c) No. 559 of 1994 [R.D. Upadhyay *vs.* State of Andhra Pradesh and Others] vide which the court has issued guidelines regarding facilities for children of women prisoners.

(b) The Ministry of Home affairs has requested the State Government/ UT Administrations for taking suitable action on the directions/guidelines.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development is also implementing the following schemes:

(i) A Programme for Juvenile Justice;

(ii) An Integrated Programme for Street Children;

(iii) Scheme for Welfare of Working Children in Need of Care and Protection; and

(iv) Scheme of Assistance of Homes for Infant and Young Children (Shishu Greh) to Promotion In-country Adoption.

The Ministry regularly pursues with the State Governments for effective implementation of these scheme.

Child marriages in the country

1480. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the child marriages are still going on in some parts of the country in spite of the existence of Child Marriages Prevention Act; and

(b) if so, what remedial measures Government propose to initiate in order to curb this social evil?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir. As per information received from the National Crime Record Bureau, the problem of child marriage still exists in some parts of the country.

(b) In order to make the provisions of the Act more effective and punishment more stringent for offenders, a new legislation "The Prohibition

of Child Marriage Act, 2006" (No. 6 of 2007) has been enacted and notified in the Gazette of India on 11th January, 2007.

Marginal decline malnutrition ratio

1481. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:
SHRITAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite economic growth of eight per cent every year, malnutrition in the age group of 06 years has declined by one per cent during the last eight years;

(b) what are the existing flaws in implementation of Integrated Child Development Scheme;

(c) whether there is any proposal to restructure ICDS; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) It is true that while our economy is registering impressive growth, the overall decline in malnutrition amongst children below three years, as per the findings of National Family Health Survey (NFHS-3), has been about 1% only (it varies considerably amongst States). While 17 States have registered an improvement in nutritional status, in the remaining 12 States, nutritional status has actually declined since 1998-99 when second round of NFHS was carried out.

(b) Inadequate coverage of ICDS is one of the major gaps in the Scheme as only 654.65 lakh children under 6 years of age, out of 15.78 crore as per data of census carried out in 2001, are availing of the benefit of supplementary nutrition at present.

Nutritional status is an outcome of food consumed and effect of various diseases on the human body. Inadequate vaccination, ante/post-natal care, access to healthcare facilities, Iron & Folic Acid, Vitamin A supplementation and -clean drinking water and sanitation facilities are also contributory factors for sub-optimal outcomes of the ICDS Scheme.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. The details, however, are being worked out.